

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

at least one input device;  
at least one display device; and  
at least one processor; and

at least one memory device which stores a plurality of instructions, which when executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor -programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

- (a) display a plurality of different selection groups;
- (b) display a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups, wherein a first one of the selections in a first one of the selection groups is linked to a first one of the selections in a second one of the selection groups;
- (c) associate a plurality of advances with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups is associated with one of said advances;
- (d) associate at least one award with at least one of the selections of at least one of the selection groups;
- (e) provide a player a number of picks of the selections from the selection groups;
- (f) enable the player to pick one of the selections from the first selection group, said pick counting against the provided number of picks;
- (g) if said picked selection is associated with one of the advances and said picked selection is linked to the first selection in the second selection group;

- (i) automatically cause the pick of the first selection from the second selection group.
  - (ii) said automatically caused pick not counting against the provided number of picks, and
  - (iii) provide an advance award if another one of the advances is associated with said first selection automatically caused to be picked from the second selection group; and
- (h) indicate the at least one award if either:
- (ia) the player picks one of said selections selection-associated with the at least one award, or
  - (iib) one of the advances causes the pick of one of said selections selection-associated with the at least one award; and
- ~~if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances from the first selection group, and said picked selection is linked to the first selection in the second selection group:~~
- ~~(i) automatically cause the pick of the first selection from the second selection group, and~~
  - ~~(ii) provide an advance award if another one of the advances is associated with said first selection from the second selection group.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick of said selection associated with said advance counts against the provided number of picks and said automatically caused pick caused by said advance does not count against the provided number of picks.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of links between the plurality of selections of at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 3, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor to operate with the at least one display device ~~is adapted to~~ display the selection groups in alignment, each of the selection groups being aligned to show the links between the selections of at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ associate a plurality of the advances with a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the selection groups are arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, at least one of the awards ~~award~~ associated with one of the selections of each of the selection groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause said at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ indicate the award to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or one of the advances ~~an advance~~ causes the pick of said selection.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the selection groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ indicate each award

associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with each one of the selections of each of the selection groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to indicate~~ each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the selection groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to indicate~~ each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection ~~is not having an associated~~ with at least one of: (i) one of the advances, and (ii) advance ~~has one of said awards associated with said selection~~, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to indicate~~ each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ reset the number of picks upon one of the selections having an associated advance being picked.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:  
at least one input device;  
at least one display device; and  
at least one processor; and  
at least one memory device which stores a plurality of instructions, which when  
executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor programmed  
to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

- (a) display a plurality of different selection groups;
- (b) display a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups,  
wherein at least one first selection associated with a first one in  
each of the selection groups is linked to at least a first one of the  
selections in another from a second one of the selection groups;
- (c) associate a plurality of advances with the selections, at least one  
selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups  
being associated with one of said advances;
- (d) provide a player a number of picks from the selection groups;
- (e) enable the player to pick one of the selections from the selection  
groups, said pick counting against the provided number of picks;
- (f) indicate an award to be provided to the player if:
  - (ia) the player picks one of the selections associated with one of  
the advances from a the first one of the selection  
groupsgroup,
  - (iib) said picked selection picked from the first selection group is  
linked to the first one of the selections from a the second one  
of the selection groupsgroup,
  - (iiie) said advance automatically causes the pick of the first  
selection from the second selection group which is linked to  
said picked selection picked from the first selection group,  
the automatically caused pick not counting against the  
provided number of picks,

- (ivd) another one of the advances is associated with said picked selection automatically caused to be picked from the second selection group ~~by the advance~~, and
- (ve) at least one pick of the provided number of picks is remaining.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick of said selection associated with said advance counts against the provided number of picks and said automatically caused pick ~~caused by said advance~~ does not count against the provided number of picks.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of links between the plurality of selections of at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor to operate with the at least one display device ~~is adapted to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of at least two of the selection groups.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ associate a plurality of the advances with a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ operate with the at least one display device to display

the selection groups arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate said award to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one

of said awards associated with said selection, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor is ~~programmed to~~ indicate each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ reset the provided number of picks upon one of the selections having an associated advance being picked.



Claim 25 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:  
at least one input device;  
at least one display device; and  
at least one processor; and  
at least one memory device which stores a plurality of instructions, which when  
executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor programmed  
to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

- (a) display a plurality of selection groups;
- (b) display a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups,  
wherein at least one of the selections in each first selection in a first  
one of the selection groups is linked to a first one of the selections  
in a different second one of the selection groups;
- (c) associate a plurality of advances with the selections, wherein at  
least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection  
groups is associated with one of said advances;
- (d) provide a player a number of picks from the selection groups;
- (e) enable the player to pick one of the selections from the selection  
groups;
- (f) indicate an award to be provided to the player if for each of two  
picks by the player:
  - (ia) the player picks one of the selections associated with one of  
the advances, said pick counting against the provided  
number of picks from the first selection group,
  - (iib) said picked selection from the first selection group is linked  
to the first one of the selections from another one of the  
second selection groups;
  - (iiie) said advance automatically causes the pick of the selection  
from the second selection group which is linked to said  
picked selection picked from the first selection group, the

automatically caused pick not counting against the providing number of picks, and

- (ivd) said picked selection automatically caused to be picked by the advance is associated with another one of the advances.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick caused by said advance does not count against the provided number of picks.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of links between a plurality of the selections of at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 27, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor to operate with the at least one display device ~~is adapted to~~ display the selection groups in alignment, each of the selection groups being aligned to show the links between the selections of at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ associate a plurality of the advances with a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to~~ operate with the at least one display device to display the selection groups arranged in an order such that a percentage of advances with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause said at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate the award to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate the each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed~~ to indicate the each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor is

~~programmed to indicate the each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.~~

Claim 36 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor ~~is programmed to reset the~~ provided number of picks upon a selection having an associated advance symbol being picked.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:  
at least one input device;  
at least one display device; and  
at least one processor; and  
at least one memory device which stores a plurality of instructions, which when  
executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor programmed  
to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

- (a) display a plurality of different selection groups;
- (b) display a plurality of selections in each of said different selection groups;
- (c) display a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups is associated with one of said advances;
- (d) indicate a number of picks from the selection groups for a player, said indicated number of picks being usable to pick from the plurality of the different selection groups;
- (e) indicate an advance award to be provided to the player if:
  - (ia) the player picks one of the selections associated with a first one of the advances, said pick counting against the indicated number of picks,
  - (iib) said first advance automatically causes the pick of one of the selections from a first different associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups which is linked to the picked selection, said automatically caused pick by the first advance not counting against the indicated number of picks,
  - (iiie) a second one of the advances is associated with said selection automatically caused to be picked by the first advance, and

(ivd) said second advance automatically causes the pick of one of the selections from a second different associated with another subsequent one of the selection groups which is linked to said selection automatically caused to be picked by the first advance or the advance award, said automatically caused pick of said selection caused to be picked by the second advance from the another subsequent selection group not counting against the indicated number of picks.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:  
at least one input device;  
at least one display device; and  
at least one processor; and  
at least one memory device which stores a plurality of instructions, which when  
executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor programmed  
to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

- (a) display a plurality of first selections;
- (b) associate a first advance with one of the first selections;
- (c) display a plurality of second selections, wherein at least one of the  
first selections is individually associated with one of the second  
selections;

~~indicate an advance award adapted to be provided to a player if:~~

- ~~(d) indicate a number of picks of the first and second selections,~~
- ~~(e) enable a player to pick one of the first selections,~~
- (fa) if the picked first selection is associated with picked generates the  
first advance, generate the first advance,
- (gb) if the picked first selection picked is individually associated with one  
of the second selections, automatically cause the second selection  
to be picked, said automatically caused pick not counting against  
the indicated number of picks, and
- (hc) if the picked second selection is associated with the first advance  
automatically causes the second selection individually associated  
with the picked first selection to be picked, and
- ~~(d) the picked second selection generates a second advance,~~  
cause an advance award to be provided to the player.

Claim 39 (original): The gaming device of Claims 38, which includes at least one  
award associated with one of the first selections.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 38, wherein when executed by the at least one processor, the plurality of instructions cause the at least one processor to operate with the at least one display device to display the first and second selections aligned to indicate the associations between the first selections and second selections.



Claim 41 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device including a wagering game, said method comprising:

- (a) displaying a plurality of different selection groups;
- (ba) providing a number of picks to a player, the provided number of picks being usable to pick from a plurality of selection groups, each of the selection groups including a plurality of selections;
- (cb) enabling the player to pick at least one selection from a first one of the selection groups,
- (d) if the picked selection is not associated with a first advancement which advances the player through the first selection group,
  - (i) counting the pick against the provided number of picks, and
  - (ii) enabling the player to pick from the first selection group until the picked selection is associated with the a-first advancement, ~~the first advancement~~ advancing the player through the first selection group;
- (ee) if the picked selection is associated with the first advancement,
  - (i) automatically causing a pick one of the selections from ~~does not generate a second advancement in a~~ second one of the selection groups,
  - (ii) maintaining the provided number of picks, such that the automatically caused pick does not count against the provided number of picks, and
  - (iii) enabling the player to pick at least one selection from the second selection group until the picked selection from the second selection group is associated with a the-second advancement which, ~~the second advancement~~ advancing advances the player through the second selection group;
- (fd) tracking a quantity of picks used by the player to advance through the first and second selection groups; and

- (ge) ~~causing providing an advance award to be provided to the player for advancing through each of the first and second selection groups if the tracked quantity of picks for advancing through each of the first and second selection groups is less than or equal to the provided number of picks.~~

Claim 42 (original): The method of Claim 41, which includes providing a separate number of picks for the first and second selection groups.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of Claim 41, which includes requiring at least one pick to be used to receive the advance award.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of Claim 41, which includes, upon the picking of first advancement, automatically revealing one of the selections in the second selection group, wherein the automatically revealed selection can yield the second advancement.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method of Claim 44, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second selection group is related to the picked selection in the first group that yielded the first advancement.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of Claim 44, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second selection group is randomly chosen upon picking the first advancement.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The method of Claim 41, which includes not counting a pick in the second selection group that yields the second advancement if the pick is a result of the picked selection corresponding to a pick of the first advancement in the first selection group.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of Claim 41, which includes providing steps (a) to (eg) via a data network or a computer storage device.

Claim 49 (original): The method of Claim 48, wherein the data network includes an internet.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) displaying a plurality of different selection groups, each one of the selection groups including a plurality of selections;
- (ba) providing a number of picks to a player, the provided number of picks being usable to pick from the a-plurality of different selection groups, each of the selection groups including a plurality of selections;
- (cb) enabling the player to pick from a first one of the selection groups until the player picks a first advancement;
- (d) if the picked selection is not associated with a first advancement,
  - (i) counting the pick against the provided number of picks, and
  - (ii) enabling the player to pick from the first selection group until the picked selection is associated with the first advancement;
- (ee) if the picked selection is associated with the first advancement, and the first advancement is not linked with a second advancement in a second one of the selection groups,
  - (i) counting the pick against the provided number of picks, and
  - (ii) enabling the player to pick from the second selection group until the player picks the second advancement;
- (fd) if the picked selection is associated with the first advancement, and the first advancement is linked with the second advancement in the second selection group,
  - (i) automatically causing the second advancement to be picked without counting against the number of picks, and
  - (ii) maintaining the provided number of picks, such that the automatically caused pick of the second advancement does not count against the provided number of picks; and
- (ge) providing an advance award to the player for advancing through the first and second selection groups within a designated number of the picks.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method of Claim 50, which includes, upon picking the first advancement, automatically revealing one of the selections in the second selection group, wherein the automatically revealed selection can yield the second advancement.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method of Claim 51, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second selection group is related to the selection in the first selection group that yielded the first advancement.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method of Claim 51, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second selection group is randomly indicated by the first advancement.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The method of Claim 50, which includes providing steps (a) to (eg) via a data network or a computer storage device.

Claim 55 (original): The method of Claim 54, wherein the data network includes an internet.